DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY D. Ackerly DATE 2/16/83
RDS or XD SEXT DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

In reply refer to
AV

December 20, 1961

Dear Mr. Dean:

I have received your letter of December 7, 1961 which requests information as to the probable cause of the Sabena Belgian World Airlines Boeing 707 aircraft accident at Brussels on February 15, 1961.

Information available to the Department indicates that the official inquiry into the probable cause of this accident is still in process. No official statement concerning the probable cause has been made by the Belgian authorities.

It may be of interest for you to know that the Belgian Investigation Commission is now waiting to receive the results of an examination that will be conducted in the near future on some pieces of the aircraft equipment recovered after the accident. This examination of the equipment will be made by the United States Civil Aeronautics Board as a result of a request made by the Belgian authorities.

Official determinations and announcements bearing on probable cause of such aircraft accidents are usually made in a report after the full investigation has been concluded. However, investigations of such disasters require a considerable length of time before a final report is released by the appropriate authorities. In this particular case there has been no indication as to when the accident investigation will be terminated.

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Snowdon
Chief
Aviation Division

Mr. Ben J. Dean,
Dean & Dean,
Attorneys-At-Law,
Breckenridge, Texas.

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